

travel on a so-called redeye flight last night from the west coast to arrive this morning back in Washington to vote on 3 motions to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would like the record to indicate that I would have voted for the motions by Senators HARKIN, CARPER, and BAUCUS. I note that on none of these votes would my vote have affected the outcome; all passed by substantial margins. I want to inform my colleagues that I plan to return by another redeye flight leaving tonight for votes Thursday.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER H. SORUM

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to honor the life and accomplishments of Peter H. Sorum, Acting National Ombudsman at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Sorum passed away at the age of 58, leaving behind an impressive legacy through his work in small business, government, entrepreneurship, publishing, and political fundraising.

In his 4-year tenure at the Small Business Administration, Mr. Sorum served as the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, working closely with State and local officials to foster open communication and strong working relationships among Federal, State, and local government officials. Following this, Mr. Sorum became a senior adviser in the agency's Office of the National Ombudsman. In that post, he served a number of roles, including the regulatory fairness board coordinator, trade association coordinator, and Federal agency liaison. Most recently, Mr. Sorum was the Small Business Administration's Acting National Ombudsman where he worked to ensure that small business owners, nonprofit organizations, and small government entities were not faced with unfair Federal regulatory enforcement actions.

Prior to his service in the Small Business Administration, Mr. Sorum, a small business owner himself, was the founder and manager of the software and telecommunications company, Maple Eagle International. Additionally, he published *The Word*, a Marine Corps Reserve Officers' magazine from 1985–1987 as well as *Japan Now* from its inception in 1992 until 1994.

Mr. Sorum's commitment to public service and small business lasted until his death. His career spanned several decades, including five Presidential administrations. Mr. Sorum's family, friends, and coworkers should take pride in his service to our Nation.

I offer my condolences to his wife Mary Claire, and to his mother, siblings, and children during this difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL CARSON

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished

Hoosier and friend, Mr. Bill Carson, as he steps down at the end of the year after 42 years of dedicated leadership as chief executive of the Indiana Builders Association.

During those 42 years, Bill has overseen the remarkable transformation of the organization to which he dedicated so much time and energy. In that time, the IBA has grown from 12 locals spread across the State to 33 today. Much of the success Bill has enjoyed can be attributed to his ability to work closely with all parties affected by the building industry. I continue to be grateful for the generous counsel and support he has offered to me throughout my career.

Many Hoosiers also know Bill as an accomplished author, having written a best selling pamphlet entitled "Diary of a Mad Home Builder", and a book about the building industry entitled "High Pitches and Other Tall Tales."

Bill has been recognized by his many friends across Indiana and the Nation for the remarkable contributions he has made to the building industry. He has been awarded Indiana's highest housing award, the John C. Hart Presidential Award, and is a recipient of the Seldon Hale Award for Excellence in Association Management from the National Association of Home Builders. Bill has been recognized by three different Governors as a Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana's highest honor.

From my days as mayor of Indianapolis through today, Bill has been a trusted friend. I look forward to his continued work across Indiana, even as he attempts retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL LEON J. LAPORTE

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the professional dedication, vision and military service of GEN Leon J. LaPorte who is retiring from the U.S. Army after 37 years of dedicated service. It is a privilege for me to recognize the many outstanding achievements General LaPorte has provided the Army, and our great Nation.

General LaPorte was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1968 upon graduation from the University of Rhode Island. He was commissioned an armor officer and served in numerous positions of increasing responsibility to include the position from which he will retire. General LaPorte's contributions throughout his career have made an historic impact and greatly improved our Nation's security.

General LaPorte assumed command of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea on May 1, 2002. On October 1, 2005, General LaPorte became the longest serving U.S. commander in Korea. Earning this distinction is a tribute to his performance and the excellent relationships he fostered with our Korean allies. General LaPorte's tenure has been highlighted

by several very crucial periods in the alliance. During his time in command, we have witnessed multiple North Korean maritime violations and numerous DMZ and airspace incursions. These threats to the security and sovereignty of Korea led General LaPorte to develop deterrent options and force enhancements that provided increased deterrence against aggression. Despite the tremendous implications involved, General LaPorte remained unflappable and skillfully designed military force packages that could be deployed against anticipated threat scenarios to address the uncertain political-military situations.

General LaPorte has been a principal participant in the fast-paced bilateral military and political discussions. General LaPorte earned the reputation as a well-respected ambassador for the United States. He developed and maintained close ties with the military and civilian leadership of the Republic of Korea in partnership with the U.S. Ambassador to Korea. He is credited with fusing a lasting bond between the two nations.

General LaPorte is a soldier's soldier. Throughout his career foremost in his thoughts and his actions have been initiatives in the best interest of the soldiers, civilians, and family members. These priorities are reflected in every decision he makes. He expects those serving below him to do the same. This was never more evident than when he deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX as the Chief of Staff in October 1990 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and more recently during the deployment of one of his battalions to Iraq in support of OIF. General LaPorte was tireless in ensuring that each soldier was properly prepared, trained and equipped for the mission and that every family was cared for by a Family Readiness Group. The reenlistment rates in his units demonstrate the love, loyalty and dedication of those who served under General LaPorte.

During his illustrious career in the Army General LaPorte has been nothing less than brilliant. General LaPorte is a great credit to the Army and the Nation. As he now departs to share his experience and expertise with the private sector, I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize his service and wish him and his wife Judy well in their new endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANK M. "MARK" NEWTON

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Frank M. "Mark" Newton, assessor of Grant Parish. Mr. Newton retired on October 31, 2005, after 45 years of service to Grant Parish. Today, I want to take a moment to offer warm thanks for his years of service to the State of Louisiana and Grant Parish and thank him for all of his endeavors.